

**Town Council Minutes
Morehead City, North Carolina**

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

The Honorable Council of the Town of Morehead City met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 5:30 p.m., in the Municipal Chambers located at 202 South 8th Street, Morehead City, North Carolina. Those in attendance were:

MAYOR:	Gerald A. Jones, Jr.
MAYOR PRO-TEM:	George W. Ballou
COUNCIL:	William F. Taylor
	Demus L. Thompson [Absent]
	Harvey N. Walker, Jr.
	Diane C. Warrender
CITY MANAGER:	David S. Whitlow
CITY CLERK:	Jeanne M. Giblin
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:	Nelson W. Taylor, III; Derek Taylor
OTHERS:	Police Chief Bernette Morris, Captain Bryan Dixon,
	Tom Kies, Kitty Brawly, Betty Kinnier, Carolyn W. Dennis, Rosemary Kumper, Planning
	Director Linda Staab, Sandy Bell, Joan Shaw, Janelle Fleming, John Gainey, John Wade,
	Darlene Boyd, C. A. Boyd, Robert Purifoy, Kenneth Ball, Chuck Sewell, M. J. Sewell, Kim
	Kromka Hopper, Ray Hopper, Reporter Mark Hibbs, THE CARTERET NEWS TIMES, Ray
	Murdoch, Sam Hooker, Ron Cullipher, David Sledge, Corinne Webb Geer, Chris Gulford,
	James Swann, Laura Murphy and several others

I. Regular Meeting Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He stated that Councilman Demus Thompson was on his honeymoon. Councilman Ballou gave the invocation and all joined in The Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDMENT

Mayor Jones called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Kenneth Grey Davis, Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Newport who passed on April 8, 2015. He then read Resolution of Sympathy 2015-22.

Councilman Walker MOVED, seconded by Councilman Ballou, and carried unanimously [Councilman Thompson absent], to amend the Agenda to adopt Resolution of Sympathy 2015-22 in remembrance of Kenneth Grey Davis, Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Newport who passed on April 8, 2015. [Resolution 2015-22 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.]

II. Adoption of the CONSENT AGENDA:

**II.A. Approval of Minutes: Tuesday, March 3, 2015, Special Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2015, Regular Meeting**

Approved the Council Minutes of Tuesday, March 3, 2015, Special Meeting and Tuesday, March 10, 2015, Regular Meeting and dispensed with the reading.

II.B. Approve the Requests for Release of Overpayment of Ad Valorem Taxes for March 2015, in the amount of \$4.94; and Accept the Tax Collector and Finance Director Reports for March 2015

Approved the requests for release of overpayment of ad valorem taxes for March 2015, in the amount of \$4.94; and accepted the Tax Collector and Finance Director Reports for March 2015. [The Financial Reports are attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.]

II.C. Adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment 2015 – 12 in the General Fund to Decrease Planning & Inspections Budget by \$20,000 and Increase Central Services Budget the Same for the Acquisition of a Plotter Utilized by Multiple Departments; in the Water/Sewer Fund to adjust the Budget for the Interest Payment on the USDA Revenue Bond

The purpose of this amendment in the General Fund was to adjust the budget to decrease the Planning & Inspections budget by \$20,000 and increase the Central Services budget by the same amount for the acquisition of a new plotter that will be utilized by multiple departments/funds. There was no change in the total amount of the budget.

The purpose of this amendment in the Water/Sewer Fund was to adjust the budget to increase the Debt Service budget in the amount of \$16,000 and utilize (decrease) Contingency by the same amount to pay the first interest payment due June 1, 2015 on the USDA Revenue Bond which provided permanent financing for water treatment related improvements at Country Club Road, Arthur Farm Road, and Mayberry Loop Road. There was no change in the total amount of the Water/Sewer Fund budget.

Adopted Budget Ordinance Amendment 2015 – 12 in the General Fund to decrease Planning & Inspections budget by \$20,000 and increase Central Services budget the same for the acquisition of a plotter utilized by multiple departments; in the Water/Sewer Fund to adjust the budget for the interest payment on the USDA Revenue Bond. [Budget Ordinance Amendment 2015-12 is attached to Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.]

II.D. Approve Annual Contract with McGladrey, LLP for Audit Services

The Town of Morehead City received the contract to audit accounts for FYE 6/30/2015 from McGladrey, LLP at a cost of \$45,500. Morehead City has entered into an agreement with the auditing firm for their services through FYE 6/30/2017, however, the actual annual contract must be approved by the Council each year. The Finance and Administration Committee of the Council reviewed the proposed contract and recommended approval.

Approved the annual contract with McGladrey, LLP for audit services for FYE 6/30/2015.

II.E. Adopt Resolution 2015-20 Endorsing the Raleigh Salt Water Sportfishing Club King Mackerel Tournament and Authorizing Action Necessary for the Event to be held Friday, July 24 to Sunday, July 26, 2015 on the Morehead City Waterfront

This is the fifth year this group has requested the use of specific waterfront areas and ancillary services from Morehead City. Most of the venue has been changed to Otis Landing at Jib Plaza with Jaycee Park being used for a net-casting contest on Friday and Saturday. The Public Works Committee of the Council reviewed the request and recommended approval.

Adopted Resolution 2015-20 Endorsing the Raleigh Salt Water Sportfishing Club King Mackerel Tournament and Authorizing Action Necessary for the Event to be held Friday, July 24 to Sunday, July 26, 2015 on the Morehead City Waterfront. [Resolution 2015-20 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.]

II.F. Contiguous Annexation Request from Ridge Care, LLC, on behalf of 35th Street Professional Center, LLC, for property located at 221 Friendly Road, Tax PIN 636616949402000, approximately 7.0 acres, zoned RMF [Residential Multifamily] and R20 [Single Family Residential] District -- Adopt Resolution 2015-18 Requesting the Clerk to Investigate the Petition and Resolution 2015-19 Setting the date of the Public Hearing for Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

The Parcel Identification Number under consideration for annexation (636616949402000) is contiguous to the present City limits, contains approximately 7.00 acres and is zoned RMF (Residential Multifamily) and R20 (Single-Family Residential) District. The site in question is not part of a subdivision, and therefore will not fragment a subdivision. The current tax value of the property is estimated to be \$202,080. Based on a 33-cent tax rate, \$666.86 in tax revenues would be generated. Water and sewer will be accessed from Friendly Road. All costs associated with extending the water/sewer service to the newly annexed property will be the responsibility of the owner.

Adopted Resolution 2015-18 requesting the Clerk to investigate the petition and Resolution 2015-19 setting the date of the Public Hearing for Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. [Resolutions 2015-18 and 2015-19 are attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.]

II.G. Award Repair of the Flashing on the Morehead City Police Department Building located at 300 North 12th Street to the Low Bidder, Stone Restoration of America in the Amount of \$112,227.00

On Tuesday, April 7, 2015, the following bids were received for the repair of the window and door flashings at the Morehead City Police Department Building:

Stone Restoration of America	\$112,227.00
Statesville Roofing & Building Restoration, Inc.	\$198,700.00

Requests for quotes were sent to seven [7] contractors with two [2] responding. The low bid for this work is from Stone Restoration of America based in Charlotte, N.C.

Since construction of the new Police Department Building, intrusion of rain water during Hurricanes Irene and Sandy as well as winter storm Nemo, have occurred. In determining the cause of this intrusion it was discovered the flashing over the windows and doors of the building were not properly installed. The Council appropriated funds in this year's budget to correct this condition. The low bid is under the funding amount set aside for this work. With the Council's approval and award to the low bidder, preparation can begin to have the repairs made.

Awarded the repair of the flashing on the Morehead City Police Department Building located at 300 North 12th Street to the Low Bidder, Stone Restoration of America in the amount of \$112,227.00.

Councilman Taylor MOVED, seconded by Councilwoman Warrender, and carried unanimously [Councilman Thompson absent], to adopt the CONSENT AGENDA in one [1] motion.

III.A. Public Hearing: Rezoning Request submitted by Ray Murdoch, on behalf of Gordon and Susan Laughton, to Rezone Tax PIN #6377-2092-1272-000 located at 2608 Country Club Road from R20 [Single-Family Residential] to R15 [Single-Family Residential] -- Adopt Resolution 2015-16 and Ordinance 2015 -09

Planning Director Linda Staab reported that Mr. Ray Murdoch submitted a request to rezone approximately 13.75 acres located at 2608 Country Club Road from R20 [Single-Family Residential District] to R15 [Single-Family Residential District]. The zoning classification of surrounding properties is R20 [Single-Family Residential District]. Surrounding land use includes residential and agricultural to the east, agricultural and undeveloped land to the west, and a mining operation and undeveloped land across Country Club Road to the south. The subject property currently consists of a combination of residential and agricultural uses as well as undeveloped area. City water is available on site.

The property is located in Neighborhood 7 of the CAMA Land Use Plan and is classified as Low Density Residential.

Property owners within 300 feet of the property were notified of the Planning Board meeting as well as the date of the public hearing. The property was posted.

At the Planning Board Meeting on March 17, 2015, Tom Saunders made the MOTION, seconded by Gordon Thayer, and carried unanimously, to recommend approval of the rezoning request and Resolution No. 2015-0003. The Planning Committee of the Council reviewed the request.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing.

Ron Cullipher of Stroud Engineering stated he was representing the owners. He explained that the lot size would go from 100 feet to 80 feet due to the availability of City water.

Mayor Jones closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Warrender MOVED, seconded by Councilman Taylor, and carried unanimously [Councilman Thompson absent], to adopt Resolution 2015-16 and Ordinance 2015-09 granting the rezoning request submitted by Ray Murdoch, on behalf

of Gordon and Susan Laughton, to rezone Tax PIN #6377-2092-1272-000 located at 2608 Country Club Road from R20 [Single-Family Residential] to R15 [Single-Family Residential]. [Resolution 2015-16 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference. Ordinance 2015-09 is attached to Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.]

III.B. Public Hearing: Rezoning Request submitted by Eugene Gurganus, on behalf of Golf & Shore Properties, Inc., to Rezone Tax PIN #6346-1297-4076-000 located on 2608 McCabe Road from PD [Planned Development] to R15 [Single-Family Residential] – Adopt Resolution 2015-15 and Ordinance 2015-08

Planning Director Linda Staab reported that Mr. Eugene Gurganus submitted a request to rezone a 1.23 acre tract located on the east side of McCabe Road from PD [Planned Development District] to R15 [Single-Family Residential District]. The zoning classification of surrounding properties is R20 [Single-Family Residential District] across McCabe Road to the west and PD [Planned Development] to the north, east, and south. Surrounding land use includes a golf course and maintenance area to the north, east, and south, and single-family residential and a church across McCabe Road to the west. The subject property is currently undeveloped.

The property is located in Neighborhood 9 of the CAMA Land Use Plan and is classified as Medium Density Residential. Property owners within 300 feet of the property were notified of the Planning Board meeting as well as the date of the public hearing. The property was posted.

At the Planning Board Meeting on March 17, 2015, John Creech made a MOTION, seconded by Tom Outlaw, and carried unanimously, to recommend approval of the rezoning request and Resolution No. 2015-0001. The Planning Committee of the Council reviewed the request.

Councilman Ballou stated he understood that the access to the property was off McCabe Road with no access to the Brandywine Bay Subdivision.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing.

Ron Cullipher of Stroud Engineering and on behalf of the applicant, advised that if the rezoning were approved it will allow three [3] lots. The maintenance facility for Brandywine is just south of the proposed rezoning site.

Mayor Jones closed the public hearing.

Councilman Taylor MOVED, seconded by Councilman Warrender and carried unanimously [Councilman Thompson absent], to adopt Resolution 2015-15 and Ordinance 2015-08 granting the rezoning request submitted by Eugene Gurganus, on behalf of Golf & Shore Properties, Inc., to rezone Tax PIN #6346-1297-4076-000 located at 2608 McCabe Road from PD [Planned Development] to R15 [Single-Family Residential]. [Resolution 2015-15 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference. Ordinance 2015-08 is attached to Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.]

III.C. Public Hearing: Rezoning Request submitted by Sam Hooker, on behalf of Ridge Care, LLC, to Rezone Tax PIN #'s 6366-1694-5560-000 and 6366-1694-9402-000 located at 221 Friendly Road from RMF [Residential Multi-Family] and R20 [Single-Family Residential] to RMF-CU [Residential Multi-Family Conditional Use] – Adopt Resolution 2015-17 and Ordinance 2015-10

Planning Director Linda Staab reported that Ridge Care, LLC submitted a request to rezone 8.68 acres located at 221 Friendly Road from RMF and R20 to RMF-CU. One [1] of the parcels is currently within Morehead City's Corporate Limits. The applicant has submitted an annexation application for the remaining parcel. Both parcels are currently vacant. Adjacent property is zoned R20 to the north, east, and west, and CH to the south. Surrounding land use consists of a church and residential (separated by undeveloped land) to the north, a garden center and printing and publishing facility to the south, a public park and undeveloped area to the west, and a self-service storage facility and undeveloped land across Friendly Road to the east. This is the only use allowed for the site. If changes occur, the project would come back for approval.

The developer is proposing to locate a 110 bed nursing home facility which will employ an estimated 85 employees. An accessory maintenance building is also proposed. Nursing home/assisted living facility and accessory building are allowed as a conditional-use in the RMF district.

The site is located within Neighborhood 5 of the CAMA Land Use Plan and is classified as Low Density Residential and Public/Institutional.

The applicant has indicated that the structure will be one-story in height. The maximum allowable height in the RMF district is 50'. Parking requirements for the project have been exceeded. Per the submitted site plan, the setback requirements have been met.

Any approval should be contingent upon receipt of the following permits/approvals:

- 1) State Stormwater Permit; and
- 2) Sedimentation and Erosion Control.

The property was posted and property owners within 300 feet of the proposed rezoning were notified of the Planning Board meeting as well as the Council's public hearing.

At the Planning Board Meeting on March 17, 2015, Gordon Thayer made a MOTION, seconded by John Creech, and carried unanimously, to recommend approval of the rezoning request and Resolution No. 2015-0002 contingent upon receipt of the following: 1) the State Stormwater Permit; and 2) the Sedimentation and Erosion Control Permit. The Planning Committee of the Council reviewed the request.

Councilman Taylor questioned if the other nursing home in the area, Crystal Bluff Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, had made any comments regarding this rezoning.

Planning Board Director Staab commented that it was her understanding that Ridge Care LLC requested Crystal Bluff's bed amount increase and this was granted.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing.

Ron Cullipher of Stroud Engineering on behalf of the applicant stated that the proposal was a good use for the property. He introduced the applicant, Mr. Sam Hooker.

Mr. Hooker reported that he was the co-founder of Ridge Care which was started in 1998. He is a nursing home administrator by trade and the company, which is based in Kernersville, N.C., has 12 senior housing communities in North Carolina and good relations with the Department of Health Services in Raleigh, N.C.

Councilman Taylor questioned if there would be a special care unit for dementia in the proposed facility.

Mr. Hooker replied that 32 beds were to be dedicated to dementia and he hoped to start construction in September or October 2015, with a year to completion.

David Sledge of 4111 Gordon Court, Morehead City, commented that he owns seven [7] or eight [8] acres north of the proposed site. He was in support of the rezoning with one [1] exception, that is, the zoning allows for too much parking. There is too much pavement devoted to parking which will not help with the stormwater runoff. If there was any possibility of reducing the stormwater impervious surfaces, he would be better able to back the project.

John Nelson of 5124 Holly Lane, Morehead City stated that he was not satisfied with the parking spaces provided for the project. He was also concerned with runoff. He spoke about the nursing home, Carolina House, located on Bryan Street and the parking situation which overflows onto the street. He cautioned there are always more visitors than anticipated.

Mayor Jones closed the public hearing.

Councilman Ballou questioned if the parking concerns had been addressed with the proposed project.

Planning Director Staab replied that the proposal has three [3] extra parking spaces than required and that after the situation of parking on Bryan Street, the requirement for extra parking spaces was set in the ordinance.

Councilman Taylor inquired if there was a debate about a turn lane off Friendly Road.

Planning Director Staab stated that would be a North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] requirement and if NCDOT felt such was necessary, the developer would have to bear the costs.

Councilman Ballou MOVED, seconded by Council Taylor, and carried unanimously [Councilman Thompson absent], to adopt Resolution 2015-17 and Ordinance 2015-10 granting the rezoning request submitted by Sam Hooker, on behalf of Ridge Care, LLC, to Rezone Tax PIN #'s 6366-1694-5560-000 and 6366-1694-9402-000 located at 221 Friendly Road from RMF [Residential Multi-Family] and R20 [Single-Family Residential] to RMF-CU [Residential Multi-Family Conditional Use] subject to state stormwater permit and sedimentation and erosion control. [Resolution 2015-17 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference. Ordinance 2015-10 is attached to Ordinance Book #7 in the vault.]

IV.A. New Business: Adopt Resolution 2015-21 Providing for the Issuance of a \$4,932,000 Water and Sewer System Revenue Bond, Series 2015 and Approval of Bond Order Authorizing the Same

City Manager David Whitlow reported that the Town of Morehead City will issue Water and Sewer System Revenue Bonds (Bonds) to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on April 23, 2015 to provide permanent financing for the water treatment improvements consisting of the new water tower, two [2] water plants and a well which were made to Morehead City's water system.

An order authorizing the Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,932,000 was adopted by the Morehead City Town Council on January 7, 2013. The Bond will replace interim financing provided by Bank of America through a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) which was issued on January 15, 2013. The BAN was issued under the USDA Bond Order in anticipation of the future receipt of the USDA Bond proceeds. The Bond proceeds will be applied to payment of the BAN which matures concurrently with the issuance of the USDA Bond. The Water and Sewer System Revenue Bonds will be issued with a fixed interest rate of 2.75% which is .5% less than maximum rate that could have been charged. The Town will amortize the Bonds over a period not to exceed 40 years and may, with notice, make prepayments without incurring penalties.

The Finance and Administration Committee of the Council reviewed the financial instruments and recommended adoption of the resolution.

Mayor Jones reminded the Council that when the annual audit is presented the journal entry will look as if Morehead City has borrowed the funding twice, however, this is not the case; both borrowing entries have to be reported in the audit.

Councilman Taylor MOVED, seconded by Councilwoman Warrender, and carried unanimously [Councilman Thompson absent], to adopt Resolution 2015-21 providing for the issuance of a \$4,932,000 Water and Sewer System Revenue Bond, Series 2015 and approval of a Bond Order authorizing the same. [Resolution 2015-21 is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.]

IV.B. New Business: Adopt Ordinance 2015-13 Amending Chapter 9, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article VII, Traffic Schedules, Section 9–174, Schedule VIII – One Way Streets; Section 9–176 [c], Schedule X – Stop Intersections; and Adding Section 9–175 [b], Schedule IX – No-Through Streets

City Manager David Whitlow reported that with the advent of the Big Rock Landing/Jibb Plaza being completed and the use of this site for not only the Big Rock/Blue Marlin Fishing Tournament, but also many of the Downtown Morehead City Fishing Tournaments, it is proposed that Ordinance 2015-13 be adopted. The designation of Shepard Street between South 8th Street on the west and Evans Street on the east as a "No

through street” will allow for more efficient crowd control and provide a more stable, safe pedestrian access to the Jib site.

At the same time by making South 8th Street between Shepard Street and Evans Street [in front of the Municipal Building] a one-way street only traveling north will improve traffic flow around the Municipal Building. The intersection of South 8th and Evans Streets will become an all-way stop intersection.

The Public Works Committee of the Council reviewed the proposed ordinance and recommended its presentation to the entire Council.

Councilwoman Warrender presented a diagram map of the area. [The map is attached to and made a part of these minutes herein by reference.] She objected to the loss of parking spaces and Red Fish Grill and Olympus Diving being cut off from access. She continued that both these businesses are very successful and are exactly what was wanted and needed in Morehead City. She acknowledged that there was a safety issue with traffic flow and parking in the vicinity of the Marlin Fountain and Jib Plaza and had no objection to closing the Jib Plaza off to vehicular traffic for special events, but not on a permanent basis. She felt the proposed traffic change was not a good design and the City should be addressing the effect this will have on the downtown area.

Councilman Ballou commented that the Public Works Committee did not remove any of the parking area and wanted the proposal presented to the entire Council.

Councilman Taylor commented that it was already a one-way street at 9th Street and something needed to be done with that intersection also to make it safer. There was also a safety issue with the alley at Red Fish Grill and traffic. He continued that he received questions if Shepard Street was going to be closed. He was of the opinion that a seasonal closing could be considered, however, that could lead to confusion as part of the year it would be closed, the other part of the year it would be open.

Councilwoman Warrender commented that the proposal still does not help the danger of exiting from the Jib Plaza alleyway onto Evans Street and summer was when most of the population was Downtown. She thought the proposal needed to be studied more.

Mayor Jones commented that the proposal as presented seems to decrease the traffic flow around the fountain. The corner at the Webb Memorial Library was supposed to be a three- way stop, however, a stop sign was missing. The proposed four-way stop sign at 8th & Evans Streets would make the intersection safer.

Robert Purifoy of Olympus Diving located at 713 Shepard Street, Morehead City, stated he was happy with the changes to downtown but he was not aware there would be any street and parking closures when the Jib project was first suggested. He was concerned that the closing of the street would hinder business and present problems with trucks making deliveries; but the one-way traffic flow was fine. He felt that the plaza needed to be closed for special events, however, its closure at other times was not good for business.

Ray Hopper of 801 South 8th Street, Morehead City, stated that his building has three [3] street frontages. He read into the record a letter in opposition to the proposed traffic ordinance which was distributed to the Council. [Attached to and made a part of these minutes is the letter from Ray & Kim Hopper to the Council dated April 14, 2015.] He stated that street closures have closed his business of 52 years. He also stated that exiting from the Jib Plaza alley onto Evans Street was done on faith alone.

Councilman Ballou MOVED, seconded by Councilman Taylor, and carried unanimously [Councilman Thompson absent], to send the proposal back to the Public Works Committee for their meeting on April 21, 2015, for further review and to present it again to Council at their meeting on May 12, 2015.

Kenneth Ball of 816 South Yaupon Terrace stated that the Big Rock Blue Marlin Fishing Tournament was here for one [1] week, and that the organization does good for a lot of organizations; the same was true for the Seafood Festival. However, a lot of business is lost during those times for the regular business owners. He asked the Council to reconsider and not place anyone out of business.

Mayor Jones commented that the City appreciated all the businesses that lend support to the festivals and he understood the inconvenience these times bring to regular businesses.

V. Citizens Request/Comments: [2 minute time limit]

Corinne Geer of 3207 Evans Street, Morehead City, and speaking on behalf of the Friends of the Webb Memorial Library requested that the Council delay action on the Webb Memorial Library becoming part of the Craven/Pamlico/Carteret Regional Library System to give opportunity for those affected to present a fact sheet to the Council. She stated that the Friends believed the Webb Memorial Library was superior to the State Library system. She also questioned that if the Webb Memorial Library was to become a part of the Regional Library System that Morehead City would be giving up autonomy to an unknown group. The Webb Memorial Library and Civic Center was unique. She gave an historical review of the library and stated that patrons were astonished at the services available. She reported on the many facets of the services provided. She emphasized the need to maintain the library's unique identity. She requested the ability of the Friends and Library Staff to participate in this change and concluded that they were good stewards of the library.

Kitty Brawley of 209 North Tenth Street stated she is employed at the Webb Memorial Library. She questioned the advantages of becoming part of the Regional Library System. She stated that many people come to the library every day and say that they appreciate the services. She continued that she read the memo from Susan Simpson [Director of the Regional Library System] about the advantages but no one asked the employees what the advantages were. She continued that the employees want to better serve the community and were concerned this would not be the case if the Webb Memorial Library was under the Regional Library System.

John Nelson commented that he has not questioned Council decisions since he retired from the Council. He spoke about how the City acquired the Webb Memorial Library and stated the acquisition has cost the City some money, but acquiring the Library did many good things for the City. He felt the Webb Memorial Library was invaluable to the City. If the Library were to become part of the Regional Library System he wanted to know to what extent Carteret County would support the Webb Memorial Library. He felt the City would lose much if it were to give control of the Library to another group. He felt that the Webb Memorial Library had served the community well and it needed to stay under the control of Morehead City.

Sandy Bell of 201 Brandywine Boulevard, Morehead City, stated she was a member of the Webb Foundation. She spoke about the premises which are leased, and the uses which are contained in the lease. She questioned items such as insurance coverage if the Webb Memorial Library were to become part of the Regional Library System. She continued that the Foundation would like to review the proposed agreement with the Regional Library System.

Herb Phillips of 1913 Evans Street, Morehead City, stated the Council should take the advice of Albert Coates who created the Institute of Government, "Don't take away from me the one thing which has been created."

Carolyn Dennis of 1007 Evans Street, Morehead City, stated that she started working for the Town of Morehead City at the Webb Memorial Library. She stated she saw the Library bloom from a bud to a beautiful flower. The Library provides exceptional services and many patrons have donated money and items to just the Webb Memorial Library. The Webb Memorial Library was not a county institution. She felt that the Library was for this town and this community and that was who supported it.

Mayor Jones responded that the information when available would be given to the Library personnel. The Council has not reviewed any of the information at this time.

VI.A. City Manager's Report: Webb Memorial Library – Membership in Craven/Pamlico/Carteret Regional Library System

City Manager David Whitlow reported that the City Council expressed interest in having the Webb Memorial Library become a part of the Craven/Pamlico/Carteret Region Library System [CPCRL]. Over the past two [2] months City Manager David Whitlow has had

several conversations with Susan Simpson, CPCRL Director, regarding the process for becoming a member, the potential benefits and direction and administration of programs.

City Manager Whitlow proposed that Morehead City would continue to “own” the building and fixtures and be responsible for its ongoing maintenance and improvement. Staff and non-durable furnishings and the collection would transfer to the regional library system minus the historic volumes. It has been discussed in Morehead City’s separation of the budget into maintenance and capital items, and that the City would continue to maintain the budget and place the operating funds for staff, benefits and books into the regional system for use in the Webb Library.

It has also been discussed about the need to keep the “local flavor” and unique culture of the Webb Memorial Library and the need to keep the Friends of the Webb Library engaged.

City Manager Whitlow requested that the Council authorize him to submit a letter of interest to the Carteret County Public Library [CCPL] Board of Trustees and the CPCRL Board as the first step in this process.

City Manager Whitlow reported that he has had subsequent discussions with Susan Simpson since her initial letter. He told her that Morehead City would want to keep the unique “flavor” of the Webb Memorial Library. He continued that Susan Simpson was more than happy to continue those functions and that the Friends of the Webb Library would do works to only benefit the Webb Library. Ms. Simpson was aware that the City has a lease with the option for renewal. As to the staff of the Library moving to the Regional Library System, the program was similar as regards to wages and benefits. There was also a need to differentiate the furniture and fixtures which would not go to the Regional Library System.

City Manager Whitlow continued that so far everything that the City asked, the county has been amenable to continuing. In order to start to quantify some of those things the City needed to make a decision and to continue the process, a letter of interest was necessary to the Carteret County Public Library [CCPL] Board of Trustees and the CPCRL Board. There are numerous different arrangements with all the different libraries with many specific needs within the Regional Library System. No decisions or discussions were made by the Council. The City was not even sure the physical needs of the Webb Memorial Library would be amenable to the Regional System.

Councilwoman Warrender stated that the above scenario was reasonable and it would be wise if the personnel and volunteers at the Webb Memorial Library could have a meeting with the regional personnel so they would know what is happening.

Councilman Taylor offered the need for communications which could take place in a work session in order to hear the advantages and disadvantages of joining the Regional Library System so as to make a decision as to whether to continue or not. He was concerned with the guarantee that the Morehead City concept would carry forward if current regional personnel were to change.

Councilman Walker was of the opinion, “if it is not broke, don’t fix it.” He continued that the Webb Memorial Library was Morehead City’s and unique. There was something to be said for having your own. He would prefer to keep it local.

Councilman Ballou addressed the audience and stated he shared their passion and if the Council made them feel excluded, he apologized. The current item is only an interest to pursue. He also wanted to know if the Regional Library System could meet the needs of the Town of Morehead City.

City Manager Whitlow concurred that that was what was requested, to hear what issues could be addressed and worked through. Carteret County is open to maintaining the Webb Memorial Library much the way the City requested, however, further discussions were necessary.

Councilman Ballou commented that since acquiring the Webb Memorial Library, there always was discussion that it would become part of the regional system and that once the building became ADA [American Disabilities Act] accessible, discussions could commence.

Mayor Jones commented that when the City first entered into agreement with the owners of the library property, the concept was to construct and partner with the Regional Library System at another location, particularly at the Charles Wallace School.

Corrinne Geer gave further background information that in 2005 the individual running the Webb Memorial Library had issues and the Friends of the Library started to help out. She continued that they tried in the beginning to become a part of the Regional Library System and were dismissed. Everyone involved wants to do what is best to serve Morehead City. She continued that the Friends and Library staff felt that they did not know what the proposals were and had concerns about giving the autonomy to a regional group that was not known. She continued that the group was seeking input and felt that the state standards were minimal, they felt sure the Webb Memorial Library was superior to anything the Regional Library System had to offer and they did not want the Webb Memorial Library to lose its character or personality.

Councilwoman Warrender MOVED that City Manager David Whitlow and Regional Library Director Susan Simpson meet with Friends of Webb Memorial Library and Staff to discuss all the pros and cons of going with the Regional Library System. Mr. Whitlow can then report back to Council.

Councilman Taylor felt that the Council should be included in the discussions.

Councilwoman Warrender MOVED, seconded by Councilman Ballou, and carried unanimously [Councilman Thompson absent], to amend the above motion to have the meeting as a work session format, to be held before next Council meeting on May 12, 2015.

VI.B. Chief of Police Ceremony

City Manager Whitlow reminded those present that Interim Police Chief Bernette Morris would be sworn in as Police Chief at a Ceremony on Friday, April 24, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the Municipal Chambers located at 202 South 8th Street, Morehead City, N.C.

VII. Council Requests/Comments

Councilwoman Warrender gave an update on South 11th Street beach access saying that Recreation Director Craig Lands was working on a public release with a date of May 1, 2015, for applications for storage of boats. The issuance of permits would be on a first come, first served basis.

Mayor Jones thanked all for attending and that he appreciated the many comments.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Gerald A. Jones, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

Jeanne M. Giblin, City Clerk